

B1 longer able to assume the equilibrium position they occupied during nanoparticle aggregation. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B2 -- The minimum volume of surfactant to be adsorbed can be determined on the basis of the specific surface area of the comminuted nanoparticulate materials, as measured by the BET method, so that at most 50% of the adsorbent's surface will be covered with a monolayer of adsorbate molecules. --

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1 (Amended) A method for producing nanostructures, comprising the steps of:

- B3
- a. providing at least one type of sinterable precursor nanoparticulate material,
 - b. attriting a predetermined volume of said precursor nanoparticulate material or materials under a protective non-reactive fluid blanket having substantially higher density than that of water, with the dual purpose of breaking up any aggregates and mechanically removing any adsorbed volatiles, moisture, atmospheric gases or contaminants from the surface of said nanoparticulates or from the fresh surfaces generated during attrition,